

## MEDIA STATEMENT

March 19, 2020

### PMMA communities dedicated to resident, staff safety

WICHITA- Kan.—The safety of our residents and staff is our most important priority for PMMA (Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America). All PMMA communities are following the guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure resident and staff safety.

**Effective March 13, 2020 per CMS guidance**, in-person visitation is strictly limited at all PMMA communities. **Limited access** means all visits to the community must be rescheduled **except in case of end-of-life situations**. These exceptions will be determined on a case-by-case basis with careful screening of the potential visitor(s).

CMS guidelines have also discontinued group activities and communal meals for infection prevention. Residents are encouraged to practice social distancing, staying 6-feet away from one another. Residents may walk the halls or visit community amenities such as the library or fitness equipment so long as they are able to practice social distancing.

Families should communicate with their loved one via telephone, email or other electronic methods. PMMA's IT department is working with the local PMMA communities to establish means for residents and families to communicate via digital means, including FaceTime or Skype. To schedule a time to visit with a family member, call your local community.

Letters mailed via the United States Postal Service also are being accepted at our PMMA communities.

Visitors who meet the end-of-life exception are screened for entry to the community. Screening includes answering a questionnaire about recent travel, health status and exposure risk, and temperatures will be taken and logged before being allowed to enter into the community.

Visitors are expected to follow good hand washing practices and coughing/sneezing etiquette. In addition, movement in the community will be limited to the resident's room, and social distance recommendations are in place strictly limiting physical contact.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE)**, which includes gloves, masks and gowns, are available **as necessary**.

Staff members are instructed not to come to work if they are experiencing symptoms of illness including having a temperature and especially respiratory illnesses.

Staff members also are undergoing screening before being allowed to work in the community. The screening includes the questionnaire about recent travel, health status and exposure risks, and their temperatures are taken and logged.

Every PMMA community has an infection prevention specialist, who completed specific training in infection prevention through nationally accredited infectious disease programs.

Each team member completes:

- An Infection Control course during onboarding orientation and then annually;
- An annual workplace emergency course (a pandemic is considered an emergency situation);
- A Blood Borne Pathogen course, which includes many of the same concepts as infection control (proper hand hygiene, use of gloves, etc.).

Each community's emergency response plan addresses pandemic situations. These plans are based on CDC and CMS guidelines. PMMA's dedicated Plant Operations and Housekeeping teams will continue to work diligently to ensure our community is clean, safe and disinfected regularly.

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*For clinical response questions, contact Jeanne Gerstenkorn, vice president for health and wellness, PMMA, at [jgerstenkorn@pmma.org](mailto:jgerstenkorn@pmma.org) or 316-685-1100 or 316-250-8197.*

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